



Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2008 Southern Management Area



Ocean waters between 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception) and the U.S.-Mexico Border,
excluding the Cowcod Conservation Areas²

Includes a portion of Santa Barbara County, and all of Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties

Note: Regulations in this table may change during the year. Before engaging in ocean sportfishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 3 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.

Species	Time Period ^{2, 3, 4, 6, 7}	Depth Limit ^{2, 3, 4, 6, 7}	Daily Bag Limit ³	Min. Size Limit ^{1, 3, 5}
RCG Complex ² (including all species of Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings)	<u>Boat-based Anglers⁴</u> : Open: Mar-Dec Closed: Jan, Feb <u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers⁴</u> : Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters <i>less than</i> 360 ft (60 fm) deep ² SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE	10 fish in combination per person; see sub-limits for cabezon, greenlings and bocaccio	See individual species and groups below
Canary and Yelloweye Rockfishes, Cowcod	CLOSED all year; NO RETENTION		NO RETENTION (zero)	
Bocaccio	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	1 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	10" total length
Cabezon	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	1 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	15" total length
Kelp or Rock Greenling	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	2 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	12" total length
Ocean Whitefish	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	10 fish per person	none
California Sheephead	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	12" total length
California Scorpionfish	OPEN all year	Jan, Feb: May only be taken or possessed in waters <i>less than</i> 240 ft. (40 fm) deep ² Mar-Dec: May only be taken or possessed in waters <i>less than</i> 360 ft. (60 fm) deep ²	5 fish per person	10" total length
Lingcod	<u>All Anglers and Divers⁴</u> : Open: Apr-Nov Closed: Jan-Mar, Dec	Same as RCG Complex, above	2 fish per person	24" total length

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Leopard Shark ⁶	<u>Boat-based Anglers⁴ within Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, San Diego Bay, and Mission Bay:</u> Open all year <u>Outside of the above-mentioned bays:</u> Same as RCG Complex, above	<u>Boat-based Anglers⁴ within Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, San Diego Bay, and Mission Bay:</u> No depth restrictions <u>Outside of the above-mentioned bays:</u> Same as RCG Complex, above	3 fish per person	36" total length
	<u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers⁴:</u> Open all year	<u>Divers, Shore-based anglers⁴:</u> Open all year		
Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish" ⁷ (see Section 28.48)	OPEN all year with certain gear restrictions during Jan and Feb (see Footnote 7, below)	None, although certain gear restrictions apply in depths greater than 360 ft (60 fm) (see Footnote 7, below)	See Section 28.48	See Section 28.48
Other Federal Groundfish (see Sections 28.49, 28.51, 28.52, 28.53, 28.57)	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	See Sections 28.49, 28.51, 28.52, 28.53, 28.57	See Sections 28.49, 28.51, 28.52, 28.53, 28.57

1. See regulations for information on gear restrictions and fillet lengths.

2. In the Cowcod Conservation Areas fishing is prohibited in waters greater than 120 feet (20 fathoms) in depth. Fishing is also subject to the Time Period closures for the Southern Management Area. See Section 27.50 for further information on species restrictions.

3. Subject to in-season change. Call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at **(831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region Web site at **www.dfg.ca.gov/marine**, send an e-mail to **AskMarine@dfg.ca.gov**, or call your nearest DFG office for the latest information. Anglers may also sign up for e-mail notification of regulation changes at **www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/subscribe.asp**.

4. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG complex, ocean whitefish, California sheephead, and other federally managed groundfish (except for lingcod). However, when spear fishing during a boat-based closure, only spear fishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- Boat-based anglers are fishermen that fish from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- Shore-based anglers are fishermen that fish from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

5. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail. A measurement illustration is available on page 80 of the 2008 Ocean Sport Fishing regulations booklet.

6. The sport fishery for leopard shark inside Newport Bay, Alamitos Bay, Mission Bay, and San Diego Bay is exempt from season and depth restrictions that affect other federally managed groundfish.

7. In closed areas or during closed periods, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in Section 1.91(a)(10)) may ONLY be taken using the following gear: up to 12 No. 2 (or smaller) hooks and up to 2 lb. of weight.

EXCEPTION: During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).